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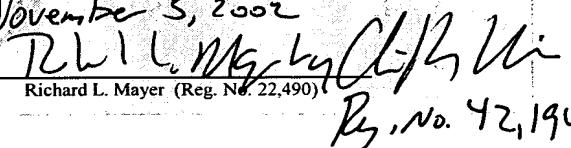
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11/20/02IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Christian LAUBLE et al.
Serial No. : 09/485,074
Filed : September 27, 2000
For : VIBRATION DAMPER FOR A TUBULAR DRIVE SHAFT
Examiner : Melody M. Burch
Art Unit : 3613

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Dated: November 5, 2002

Signature: 
Richard L. Mayer (Reg. No. 22,490)

Reg. No. 42,194

AMENDMENT

SIR:

In response to the Office Action of June 5, 2002, kindly amend the above-captioned application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 9, 11 and 17 to 20, without prejudice as follows:

9. (Three Times Amended) A vibration damper for a tubular propeller shaft in the drive train of a motor vehicle, the vibration damper comprising:
a sleeve, the sleeve defining a radial and circumferential direction;
a mass body mounted concentrically in the sleeve;
a plurality of rubber spring elements for mounting the mass body to the sleeve; and
a plurality of flexible stop elements disposed circumferentially between each adjacent pair of spring elements and disposed between the mass body and the sleeve to define a discrete space to limit a vibration travel of the mass body at least in the radial direction, wherein a contact surface of each stop element extends over a larger circumferential angle than the spring elements and than a space between each stop element and an adjacent rubber spring element, such that each stop element occupies a large portion of a space between the mass body, the spring elements and the sleeve.

11. (Twice Amended) A vibration damper for a tubular propeller shaft in the drive train of a motor vehicle, the vibration damper comprising:

GROUP 3600

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